

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 03244 061650Z

47

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6477

UNCLAS PARIS 03244

FOR EUR/WE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF JACQUES SOUSTELLE

1. FOLLOWING REPORT OF HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUSTELLE'S STRONGLY PRO-ATLANTIC REMARKS AT AMERICAN CLUB LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 6 MAY BE USEFUL IN PREPARING FOR HIS WASHINGTON APPOINTMENTS.

2. SOUSTELLE, A STRONG SUPPORTER OF NATO AND THE EC, SPOKE ON THE THEME "FRANCE, EUROPE AND AMERICA -- THE FRENCH DILEMMA." HE EMPHASIZED THAT FRENCH "INDEPENDENCE" CAN BE MAINTAINED ONLY IF FRANCE REMAINS CLOSELY LINKED WITH THE ENTIRE WESTERN WORLD. FRANCE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT BE "INDEPENDENT" WHEN IT DEPENDS ON OUTSIDE SOURCES FOR 76 PERCENT OF ITS ENERGY NEEDS. IN SOUSTELLE'S VIEW, IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE IF FRANCE WERE TO WITHDRAW BEHIND A MENTAL MAGINOT LINE. THE PROBLEM IS TO FIND A WAY OF RECONCILING THE CONCEPTS OF FRENCH SOVEREIGNTY, A UNITED EUROPE AND THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY. SOUSTELLE, LONG AN ADVOCATE OF BRITISH EC ENTRY, ARGUED THAT THESE CONCEPTS ARE NOT MUTUALLY ANTAGONISTIC AND EXCLUSIVE.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 03244 061650Z

3. ASKED ABOUT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT'S VIEWS

THAT FRENCH "INDEPENDENCE" IS THREATENED BY AMERICAN "IMPERIALISM," SOUSTELLE RESPONDED THAT MOST FRENCHMEN DO NOT SHARE JOBERT'S ARTIFICIAL FEARS OF US "IMPERIALISM". EVEN MANY GAULLISTS DO NOT SHARE JOBERT'S OPINIONS. SINCE LEAVING THE GOVERNMENT, JOBERT HAS BEEN AGITATING IN FRANCE WITH LITTLE SUCCESS. SOUSTELLE CITED THE REMARK OF A JOURNALIST, ASKED WHY THE FRENCH PRESS HAS BEEN GIVING JOBERT SO MUCH SPACE, WHO REPLIED: "HE AMUSES US."

4. SOUSTELLE REFERRED APPROVINGLY TO THE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT, SAYING IT HAS APPRECIABLY INCREASED PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S POPULARITY.

5. SOUSTELLE SPEAKS GRAMMATICALLY FLAWLESS ENGLISH AT THE FOUR-PLUS LEVEL, ALTHOUGH WITH A MODERATELY HEAVY ACCENT.
STONE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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